

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A garment for children, comprising:

a body blank having a neck opening, a front portion, a rear portion, and first and second sleeve blanks;

said body having a peripheral edge portion and at least four side slits extending toward said neck openings from said peripheral edge portion;

said side slits being positioned with respect to one another to define a pair of lateral edge portions for each of said first and second sleeve blanks and a pair of lateral edge portions for each of said front and rear portions;

first securement means for selectively coupling the pairs of lateral edge portions of said first and second sleeve blanks to form first and second sleeves having open interior portions and open distal ends; ~~and~~

second securement means for selectively coupling the pairs of lateral edge portions of said front and rear portions to form a body portion of the garment; and

mitten means coupled to the interior portions of said first and second sleeves for selectively receiving and at least partially covering a child's hands without the necessity of uncoupling said mitten means from within the interior portions of said first and second sleeves or passing the child's hands completely through the open distal ends of said first and second sleeves.

2. (Original) The garment of claim 1 further comprising a front slit that extends from said neck opening toward said peripheral edge portion in said front portion.

1 3. (Original) The garment of claim 2 further comprising a third securement means for selectively securing said front slit in a closed position.

5 4. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 3 wherein said front slit extends from said neck opening to said peripheral edge portion to form selectively separateable right and left sides of said front portion.

5 5. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 1 wherein each of said side slits forms a lateral edge portion of one of said first and second sleeve blanks and a lateral edge portion of one of said front and rear portions of said body panel.

10 6. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said peripheral edge portion of said body panel is generally curved.

7. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 6 wherein said curved peripheral edge portion defines a generally circular shaped for said body blank.

15 8. (Original) The garment of claim 7 wherein each of said side slits forms a lateral edge portion of one of said first and second sleeve blanks and a lateral edge portion of one of said front and rear portions of said body panel.

9. (Original) The garment of claim 8 further comprising a front slit that extends from said neck opening toward said peripheral edge portion in said front portion.

20 10. (Original) The garment of claim 9 further comprising a third securement means for selectively securing said front slit in a closed position.

25 11. (Original) The garment of claim 10 wherein said front slit extends from said neck opening to said peripheral edge portion to form selectively separable right and left sides of said front portion.

12. (Original) The garment of claim 1 wherein said body is formed from a single panel of flexible material.

13. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 1 ~~further comprising~~ wherein said mitten means are formed to have peripheral edges that define open ends of said mitten means; at least a portion of said peripheral edges being directly coupled to the interior portions of said first and second sleeve for selectively covering a child's hands when said child wears the garment.

14. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 13 wherein said mitten means are comprised of first and second mittens that are each faormed from a single panel of flexible fabric in a manner that provides a single hand compartment within each of said first and second mittens, without separate compartments for thumbs or fingers.

15. (Original) The garment of claim 1 further comprising hood means operatively coupled to an edge portion of said neck opening for selective coverage of a child's head when the child wears the garment.

16. (Original) The garment of claim 15 wherein said hood means is selectively removable from said neck opening.

17. (Original) The garment of claim 16 further comprising mitten means coupled to said first and second sleeve for selectively covering a child's hands when it wears the garment.

18. (Original) The garment of claim 17 wherein said body is formed from a single panel of flexible material.

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19. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 18 wherein each of said side slits forms a lateral edge portion of one of said first_hand second sleeve and a lateral edge portion of one of said front and rear portions of said body panel.

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20. (Original) The garment of claim 19 wherein said curved peripheral edge portion defines a generally circular shaped for said body.

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